

Message Text

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47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 221204Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 569

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2467

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, ET

SUBJECT: KAGNEW FOUR

REF: STATE 249551

1. SAW KIBEIDA OCT 22 FOR DISCUSSION DEVELOPMENTS KAGNEW FOUR CASE. EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR GOS ROLE IN TRANSMITTING LETTERS FROM STRICKLAND AND BOWIDOWICZ WHICH I SAID HAD BEEN PASSED ON TO FAMILIES, WHO WERE MOST GRATEFUL. SUDANESE ROLE IN FACILITATING DELIVERY FOOD AND MEDICINES TO KAGNEW 2 WAS SIMILARLY WELCOMED (KHARTOUM 2461). SINCE KAGNEW 2 LETTERS HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO ME BY KIBEIDA I THEN GAVE HIM SINGLE, INTEGRATED EMBASSY ACKNOWLEDGMENT, DRAFTED IN TERMS PARA 2 REFTEL AND SIGNED BY CONSULAR OFFHCR. I ASKED IT BE TRANSMITTED TO TWO MEN THROUGH SAME CHANNEL. KIBEIDA SAID HE WOULD HAVE THIS DONE. IN ACCORDANCE PARA 4 REFTEL, I ALSO TOLD KIBEIDA THAT MY EARLIER REMARKS RE ELF DEMANDS (PARA 2 KHARTOUM 2442) REFLECTED USG POLICY.

2. KIBEIDA THEN ASKED WHETHER SOMEONE FROM EMBASSY WOULD
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BE PREPARED MEET ELF REPS IF THAT COULD BE ARRANGED BY GOS.

PURSUANT STATE 250696, I CONFIRMED THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO ANY REQUEST FOR MEETING BY EITHER ELF OR PLF REPRESENTATIVES, SINCE WE WERE INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING DIRECT CONTACT WITH THOSE HOLDING KAGNEW 2 AND CICS0 2. KIBEIDA SAID HE WOULD PASS THIS ON TO PUBLIC SECURITY CHIEF ABDUL WAHAB WHO HE THOUGHT COULD ARRANGE SUCH A MEETING PROMPTLY. CALLING KIBEIDA'S ATTENTION TO RECENT BAGHDAD RADIO BROADCAST (KHARTOUM 2449) ABOUT WHICH HE HAD NOT HEARD, I THEN COMMENTED PERSONALLY THAT I WOULD OF COURSE HOPE ANY SUCH CONTACTS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT PUBLICITY. KIBEIDA IMMEDIATELY AGREED AND PROMISED TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO THIS END. HE OPINED IT WOULD BE A LONG AND DIFFICULT PERIOD BEFORE HOSTAGES COULD BE RELEASED, EVEN THOUGH POSSIBILITY THEIR EXECUTION NOW SEEMED REMOTE. FACT EACH OF TWO ERITREAN ORGANIZATIONS HOLDS TWO OF THE MEN COMPLICATED QUESTION OF THEIR EARLY RELEASE. FURTHERMORE, ERITREANS SEEMED TO FEEL THAT THEY HAD SOME REAL "GRUDGES" AGAINST USG WHICH MIGHT BE HARD FOR US TO SATISFY. I REPLIED WE WERE INTERESTED SOLELY IN CONTACTS LEADING TO EARLY AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF OUR CITIZENS. ON OTHER HAND, GOS HAD ENGAGED PRESIDENT NIMEIRI'S PERSONAL PRESTIGE IN ASSURING THEIR EARLY RELEASE. IT WAS HOPED ENERGETIC SUDANESE EFFORTS TO SECURE RELEASE HOSTAGES WOULD CONTINUE EVEN THOUGH REPRESENTATIVE THIS EMBASSY MIGHT BE IN PARALLEL CONTACT WITH ONE OR ANOTHER OF THE TWO GROUPS. KIBEIDA SAID HE UNDERSTOOD BUT THAT QUESTION BUILDING UP APPROPRIATE SUDANESE PRESSURE WOULD TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME. FOR THIS PURPOSE, DIRECT USG CONTACT WITH ERITREAN GROUPS WOULD BE HELPFUL (COMMENT: PRESUMABLY BY MAKING CLEAR WE UNPREPARED BARGAIN FOR RELEASE HOSTAGES).

3. COMMENT: KIBEIDA'S REFERENCE POSSIBLE MEETING HERE WITH ELF WAS NOT SURPRISING SINCE ABDUL WAHAB HAD CANVASSED POSSIBILITY OCT 21 WITH EMBOFF. HE ALSO HAS CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF HE SEEKING ARRANGE CONTACT WITH PLF MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE. SUBSEQUENT DRAFTING FOREGOING, SUDANESE HAVE NOW INFORMED US THAT LOCAL ELF REPRESENTATIVE IS PREPARED TO MEET EMBOFF LATER TODAY. DCM HAS ACCORDINGLY ARRANGED RECEIVE HIM AT HIS HOUSE EARLY THIS EVENING. VIEW THESE DEVELOPMENTS, DEPT MAY WISH CONSIDER WHETHER INITIATIVE PROPOSED JIDDA 7076 MIGHT NOT AT MOMENT INTRODUCE COMPLICATING ELEMENT IN FORM

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OF SEPARATE USG CONTACTS WITH ELF AND PLF CONCURRENTLY IN MORE THAN ONE AREA CAPITAL.
BREWER

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Message Attributes

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